

~~separating a supernatant liquid containing the nucleic acid from the beads.~~

15. (Twice amended) A method of making a nucleic-acid-containing liquid by treating a solution containing protein and nucleic acid by the use of magnetically attractable beads which do not specifically bind the nucleic acid, comprising the steps of:

forming in the solution a precipitate comprising protein and nucleic acid in the presence of the suspended magnetically attractable beads which precipitate becomes non-specifically associated with the beads,

applying a magnetic field to draw down the beads and the associated precipitate,

separating the precipitate from a supernatant liquid,

OR adding liquid to the precipitate to selectively re-dissolve the protein and re-suspend the beads and the associated nucleic acid,

applying a magnetic field to draw down a precipitate of the nucleic acid and the associated beads,

separating a supernatant liquid containing the protein from the precipitate,

adding liquid to the precipitate to redissolve the nucleic acid and re-suspend the beads,

applying a magnetic field to draw down the beads, and

separating a supernatant liquid containing the nucleic acid from the beads.

Claim 16, cancel without prejudice to the subject matter thereof.

Claim 17, line 2, change "16" to --21--.

Please add the following claim:

--21. A method for recovering low-molecular-weight nucleic acids from a starting solution of bacteriophage, by the

use of magnetically attractable beads which do not specifically bind the said bacteriophage, which method comprises the steps:

precipitating the said bacteriophage out of the solution in the presence of the suspended magnetically attractable beads whereby the bacteriophage becomes non-specifically associated with the beads;

applying a magnetic field to draw down a precipitate of the bacteriophage and the associated beads;

lysing the said bacteriophage to form a lysate solution comprising protein and nucleic acids;

precipitating out of the solution the nucleic acid in the presence of suspended magnetically attractable beads whereby the nucleic acid precipitate becomes non-specifically associated with the beads;

applying a magnetic field to draw down a precipitate of the nucleic acid and associated beads;

separating the precipitate from the supernatant liquid;

adding liquid to the precipitate to re-dissolve the nucleic acid and re-suspend the beads;

applying a magnetic field to draw down the beads; and

separating the supernatant liquid containing the nucleic acid from the beads.--

#### REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendment, the claims will be 3, 9, 10, 13 to 17 and 21.

With reference to the Advisory Action dated May 19, 1994 in the parent application, it is noted that the rejection on prior art was overcome by applicant's response filed on May 3, 1994, which response is now entered.

Minor amendments have been made in the claims and are believed effective to overcome the 35 USC 112, second paragraph